

New York State Severe Weather Awareness Week May 3rd to May 9th, 2009

Severe Weather Terms and Definitions

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Why do we need to plan for Severe Weather in New York?

- New York receives all major forms of severe weather:
 - *Tornadoes*
 - *Severe Thunderstorms*
 - *Flash Floods*
 - *River Floods*



Why do we need to plan for Severe Weather in New York?

- Several large severe weather outbreaks have affected New York.
- New York has received significant flooding throughout its history, many of which have been statewide.
- River flooding is of particular concern, with many floods devastating the state.
- More weather-related fatalities are caused by floods than by any other natural disaster.

WATCH vs. WARNING

CAUTION

Watch the Sky

Watch- “Stand-by”

Conditions are favorable for severe weather in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. Issued by the Storm Prediction Center

DANGER

Take Cover Now

Warning- “Activated”

The severe weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned area. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods and river flooding. Issued by NWS Binghamton for central New York and northeast Pennsylvania.

Severe Thunderstorms

A storm which produces hail $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter or larger and/or wind gusts 58 mph or stronger.



Tornadoes

Tornado:

- A violently *rotating column of air* pendant from a thunderstorm and *in contact with the ground*.



Funnel Cloud:

- A *rotating*, funnel-shaped (typically) cloud extending from a thunderstorm base. A funnel cloud is attached to the cloud base and does not reach the ground. It exhibits rapid rotation and is most often smooth in appearance.



Flooding

- Flash Flood - A rapid rise in stream, creek and small tributary river levels, usually within 6 hours of a heavy rain event, or other factor such as a dam break or ice jam.
- River Flood - A flood that takes longer to develop (more than 6 hours) and often days or even weeks in some instances. Occurs on the larger rivers and lakes of our area.

Flash Flooding



NOAA Weather Radio

- Special radio with an audio alarm that goes off whenever the National Weather Service issues a warning for your area.
- Could be a life saver someday!
- Especially at night when you are not apt to be watching TV or listening to radio.

